CLAIMS

1	1. A messaging system for providing messaging to end-users, the system				
2.	comprising:				
3	a data store module for storing messages sent among the end-users, wherein				
4	each message includes one or more submessages and wherein the data				
5	store stores the messages and submessages in a relational manner.				
1	2. The messaging system of claim 1, wherein the data store module				
2	comprises:				
3	a contents module adapted to store submessages of the messages sent among				
4	the end-users, wherein a message sent by a sender to a recipient				
5	includes one or more references to submessages in the contents				
6	module.				
1	3. The messaging system of claim 2, wherein the contents module stores a				
2	plurality of submessages and wherein certain ones of the submessages are created by				
3	different end-users at different times.				
1	4. The messaging system of claim 1, wherein the data store module stores				
2	only a single version of each message and/or submessage.				
1	5. The messaging system of claim 1, further comprising:				
2	an attributes module for storing attributes of the messages and/or submessages				
3	in the data store.				
1	6. The messaging system of claim 5, wherein the attributes module is adapted				
2	to store an attribute indicating a length of time that a message and/or submessage is				
3	retained.				

1	7.	The messaging system of claim 5, wherein the attributes module is adapted			
2	to store an attribute indicating a length of time that a message and/or submessage is valid.				
1	8.	The messaging system of claim 5, wherein the attributes module is adapted			
2	to store an at	tribute indicating security information for a message and/or submessage.			
1	9.	The messaging system of claim 5, wherein the attributes module is adapted			
2	to store an attribute indicating whether a message and/or submessage can be viewed by a				
3	given end-user.				
1	10.	The messaging system of claim 1, further comprising:			
2	a relationships module for holding data describing relationships among the				
3		messages and submessages.			
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1	11.	The messaging system of claim 10, wherein the relationships module is			
2	adapted to he	old data describing submessages within a message.			
1	12.	The messaging system of claim 1, further comprising:			
2	· . a	client interface module for interfacing with client applications utilized by the			
3		end-users to access the messaging system.			
1	13.	A computer program product comprising:			
2	a	computer-readable medium having computer program logic embodied			
3		therein for providing messaging to end-users, the system comprising:			
4		a data store module for storing messages sent among the end-users,			
5		wherein each message includes one or more submessages and			
6		wherein the data store stores the messages and submessages in a			
7		relational manner.			
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1	14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data store module			
2	comprises:			
3	a contents module adapted to store submessages of the messages sent among			
4	the end-users, wherein a message sent by a sender to a recipient			
5	includes one or more references to submessages in the contents			
6	module.			
1	15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the contents module			
2	stores a plurality of submessages and wherein certain ones of the submessages are create			
3	by different end-users at different times.			
1	16. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data store module			
2	stores only a single version of each message and/or submessage.			
1	17. The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:			
2	an attributes module for storing attributes of the messages and/or submessages			
3	in the data store.			
1	18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the attributes module			
2	is adapted to store an attribute indicating a length of time that a message and/or			
3	submessage is retained.			
1	19. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the attributes module			
2	is adapted to store an attribute indicating a length of time that a message and/or			
3	submessage is valid.			
l	20. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the attributes module			
2	is adapted to store an attribute indicating security information for a message and/or			
3	submessage.			

1	21. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the attributes modul			
2	is adapted to store an attribute indicating whether a message and/or submessage can be			
3	viewed by a given end-user.			
1	22. The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:			
2	a relationships module for holding data describing relationships among the			
3	messages and submessages.			
1	23. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the relationships			
2	module is adapted to hold data describing submessages within a message.			
1	24. The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:			
2	a client interface module for interfacing with client applications utilized by			
3	end-users to access the messaging system.			
1	25. A computer-implemented method of providing messaging to end-users,			
2	comprising:			
3	storing messages sent among the end-users in a data store of a messaging			
4	system, wherein each message includes one or more submessages and			
5	wherein the data store stores the messages and submessages in a			
6	relational manner.			
1	26. The computer-implemented method of claim 25, further comprising:			
2	defining an attributes module in the messaging system, the attributes module			
3	for storing attributes of the messages and/or submessages in the data			
4	store.			
1	27. The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the attributes			
2	module is adapted to store an attribute indicating a length of time that a message and/or			
3	submessage is retained.			

1	28. T	The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the attributes	
2	module is adapted to store an attribute indicating a length of time that a message and/or		
3	submessage is valid.		
1	29. T	he computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the attributes	
2	module is adapted to store an attribute indicating security information for a message		
3	and/or submessage.		
1	30. T	he computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the attributes	
2	module is adapted to store an attribute indicating whether a message and/or submessage		
3	can be viewed by a given end-user.		
1	31. T	he computer-implemented method of claim 25, further comprising:	
2	defin	ing a relationships module in the messaging system, the relationships	
3		module for holding data describing relationships among the messages	
4		and submessages.	
1	32. T	The computer-implemented method of claim 31, wherein the relationships	
2	module is adapted to hold data describing submessages within a message.		